



U.S. Department of Justice

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SALEM MAN PLEADS IN CRACK CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that Jose Huerta-Cordero, 31, of Salem, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to five counts of distributing crack cocaine in the Manchester and Londonderry area. A sentencing hearing will be held in July.

The charges are the result of a joint investigation conducted by the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit and the Manchester Police Department. During the period from July 26, 2002 through September 18, 2002, Huerto-Cordero made five sales of crack cocaine to three separate undercover officers working for the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the New Hampshire State Police. Huerto-Cordero delivered the crack cocaine hidden in pieces of fruit.

Two of the charges carry a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum sentence of 40 years and a \$2,000,000 fine. The other three charges carry a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "My office will continue to dedicate itself to combating the trafficking of drugs from Massachusetts to our state's largest city. The cooperative effort of the Manchester Police Department and the New Hampshire State Police has been successful in removing many significant dealers from our city streets. We will continue to assist these law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug trafficking." Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith handled this prosecution.